

STATEMENT OF GEOFFREY HEATH

Before the Subcommittee on Energy and Resources
Committee on Government Reform
United States House of Representatives
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My name is Geoffrey Heath. I am the Assistant Solicitor for Federal and Indian Royalty in the Office of the Solicitor at the Department of the Interior. I graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in May 1978, and subsequently received an LL.M. degree from the George Washington University in February 1987.

After graduating from law school, I was in private law practice as an associate with two firms in Salt Lake City, Utah, for the next approximately 5 1/2 years. I joined the Solicitor's Office as a staff attorney in what was then the Division of Energy and Resources in November 1983. I have represented the Minerals Management Service's Royalty Management Program – now known as the Minerals Revenue Management – since that time. The Minerals Revenue Management is responsible for collecting, accounting for, and disbursing the royalties, rentals, bonus payments, and other revenues derived from more than 26,000 oil and gas and other mineral leases on Federal and Indian lands and the Outer Continental Shelf, and enforcing lessees' royalty obligations.

In October 1997, in connection with changes in the management assignments within the Division of Mineral Resources, I became the Acting Assistant Solicitor for Royalty and Offshore Minerals. I was selected as the Assistant Solicitor for Royalty and Offshore Minerals in July 1998. In that capacity, I have represented both the Royalty Management Program and MMS' Offshore Minerals Management Program, and have supervised the other staff attorneys representing both of those MMS programs. On May 15 of this year, in connection with a reorganization of the Division of Mineral Resources, I was designated as Assistant Solicitor for Federal and Indian Royalty. Consequently, I no longer have responsibilities with respect to the Offshore Minerals Management Program, except for matters involving financially-related issues.

I have no substantive prepared statement, and would be happy to answer any questions that the members of the subcommittee may have.